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PRESS RELEASE

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Shreveport-Bossier MSA Enters Forbes' Top 10 Best Cities for Jobs List

Shreveport-Bossier received more good news when Forbes Magazine recently announced that the region that includes Caddo, Bossier and DeSoto Parishes ranks No. 7 among mid-sized metropolitan areas on the latest "Best Cities for Jobs" list.

The MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) for Shreveport-Bossier saw a .9% increase in job growth from January 2010 to January 2011, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That boost moves the MSA up from 12th place last year.

"This is another example of how vibrant and attractive Shreveport-Bossier is not only to new businesses seeking to locate here but also to established companies that choose to stay here and expand their operations," said Shreveport Mayor Cedric Glover. "I'm encouraged by the positive impact the movie industry and natural gas operations are having in terms of creating new jobs for our area. I expect that trend to continue for years to come."

Rankings are based on growth trends, mid-term growth and long-term growth and momentum. They are further broken down by size — small, medium and large metro areas. Between 2009 and 2010, only 13 of 397 metropolitan areas experienced any growth.

"This is outstanding news and is reflective of our area's commitment to strengthening our local economy by fostering an environment where businesses can flourish and subsequently spur job growth," said Bossier City Mayor Lorenz "Lo" Walker.

In 2010, the North Louisiana Economic Partnership (NLEP), a regional economic development marketing organization and its partners assisted 12 companies that expect to create an estimated 1,084 new and retained jobs and invest a projected \$150.6 million in capital in the coming year.

"We are fortunate that North Louisiana has a diverse economy, allowing us to weather the recession better than other parts of the country. Where other metros have been losing jobs, North Louisiana experienced a modest job growth due to the uptick in the Haynesville Shale; new business expansions at companies like CQMS Razer, Schlumberger and FracTech; and the rise of the film/digital media industry," said Kurt Foreman, NLEP President.

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